

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 such that the status of the pending claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a desiccant pot by trapping a low density membrane of spun bonded plastics between opposed touching surfaces of two separate parts constituting the pot lid and the pot body, these two separate parts being made of high density plastic, and then fusing the membrane and the separate parts together by ultrasonic welding, ~~characterized by providing wherein~~ one of the separate parts is provided with a fine protuberance in the form of one or more ridges or points extending from its touching surface towards the touching surface of the other separate part to space the touching surfaces slightly apart, and pressing the two parts together with the membrane trapped between the touching surfaces so that the membrane is compressed at the point of contact with the protuberance thereby increasing its density at the point such that, at the time of ultrasonic welding, the protuberance acts as an energy directing protrusion, and the ultrasonic vibrations pass from the protuberance on the one part through the membrane at the point where it is compressed to increase its density to the other part.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which, the energy directing protrusion forms a continuous ridge around the periphery said part.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which, the energy directing protrusion comprises a series of discrete protrusions arranged around the periphery of said one part.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the energy directing protrusion projects from the touching surface a distance of between 0.5 and 0.7mm.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the point or edge of the energy directing protrusion is as sharp as possible to minimise the cross-sectional area of the tip of the protrusion.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, in which the body is a tubular component and the energy directing protrusion is a sharp knife like edge at the end of the tubular body component.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, in which the energy directing protrusion is formed by moulding a chamfer to the outside edge of the tube wall.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 8, in which the angle of chamfer is of the order of 60°.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the energy directing protrusion is arranged such that it bears against a peripheral area of the membrane.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the separate parts of the pot body and pot lid are of a high density polyethylene.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the pot body has first and second ends and each end is provided with a pot lid and a membrane trapped between the pot lid and the adjacent end of the body.